

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/821,140

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Applicant(s)

MATAYA, ROBERT F.

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on April 14, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-9 and 12-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on April 14, 2006.
2. Claims 4, 10 and 11 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 12-22 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The insert for forming an inboard/outboard propulsion system passageway in a watercraft hull as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of an insert that is comprised of a semi-rigid body with a tapered sidewall, a base surface, a perimeter lip that is formed at an intersection of said base surface and said sidewall, and one or more voids formed in said body into which a tool may be inserted to facilitate manipulation of the position of said body with respect to a watercraft hull in order to form a passageway. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said insert comprised of a semi-rigid body that is formed of a more rigid material in a central region of said body, and a less rigid material in a perimeter region of said body. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a process for fabricating a watercraft hull with an inboard/outboard propulsion system passageway, said process being comprised of the steps of providing an insert, attaching said insert to a surface of a molding tool, applying a gel coat to an inboard surface of said insert and to a surface of said molding tool, applying one or more laminate layers over an outermost surface of said watercraft hull and said insert, curing said laminate layers to form a finished watercraft hull, demolding said finished

watercraft hull, and removing said insert from said watercraft hull to expose said passageway in said hull.

5. The prior art as disclosed by Rhoda (US 3,840,319) shows the use of a mold insert for use with boat hull molds to form an inboard/outboard propulsion system passageway in a boat hull, said insert being comprised of a semi-rigid body with an inboard surface, an outboard surface, and a tapered sidewall. Said insert is not disclosed as having any form of perimeter lip or flange at an intersection between a base surface and said sidewall. Hordis et al. (US 5,601,049) discloses a method for fabricating a watercraft hull, said method being comprised of the steps of applying a gel coat to a boat hull mold structure to form an outermost surface of a hull, applying one or more laminate layers over said outermost surface of said hull, curing said laminate layers, and demolding a finished watercraft hull from a mold structure. Hordis et al. does not disclose the use of a mold insert in combination with said method for fabricating a watercraft hull. Garner et al. (US 3,638,299) discloses a mold insert that is comprised of a semi-rigid body having a tapered sidewall with opposed sections and a base surface, and a perimeter lip that is formed at the intersection of said base surface and said tapered sidewall. Garner et al. does not disclose an insert with a body having voids into which a tool may be inserted, or a body made from sections having different levels of rigidity. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of an insert that is comprised of a semi-rigid body with a tapered sidewall, a base surface, a perimeter lip that is formed at an intersection of said base surface and said sidewall, and one or more voids formed in said body into which a tool may be inserted to facilitate

manipulation of the position of said body with respect to a watercraft hull in order to form a passageway. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said insert comprised of a semi-rigid body that is formed of a more rigid material in a central region of said body, and a less rigid material in a perimeter region of said body. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of a process for fabricating a watercraft hull with an inboard/outboard propulsion system passageway, said process being comprised of the steps of providing an insert, attaching said insert to a surface of a molding tool, applying a gel coat to an inboard surface of said insert and to a surface of said molding tool, applying one or more laminate layers over an outermost surface of said watercraft hull and said insert, curing said laminate layers to form a finished watercraft hull, demolding said finished watercraft hull, and removing said insert from said watercraft hull to expose said passageway in said hull.

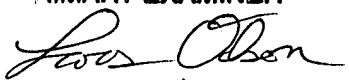
Conclusion

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

lo

May 1, 2006

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER


5/1/06